

**HAWAII DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES  
SOCIAL SERVICES DIVISION, CHILD WELFARE SERVICES BRANCH  
REQUEST FOR INFORMATION (RFI) CONCERNING  
A STATEWIDE, ALL-INCLUSIVE, INTEGRATED AND COLLABORATIVE INITIATIVE  
FOR THE  
IDENTIFICATION, RECRUITMENT, SCREENING, TRAINING AND ONGOING SUPPORT OF  
RESOURCE FAMILIES FOR CHILDREN IN THE DEPARTMENT'S CARE**

The Department of Human Services continues its efforts to implement fundamental system reform in the delivery of child welfare services through enhancing community capacity-building and collaboration among all the concerned citizens, interest groups and institutions that work with us to provide a comprehensive system of safety and care for Hawaii's vulnerable children and their families. The Department, through this RFI, is seeking input on the potential scope of work and performance measures for a subsequent Request for Proposals (RFP) to be issued for the implementation of an integrated initiative described in the Title above to serve the resource families with whom we work.

The Department is particularly interested in eliciting suggestions as to how the proposed initiative might strengthen the ties and opportunities for collaboration between the Department, the University of Hawaii and community-based social service agencies. Responses are requested on the viability and value of field-placement opportunities for students at the UH School of Social Work in the conduct of home studies, the identification and recruitment of suitable relatives who can provide a safe and nurturing environment for children who are endangered within their own homes, work with drug-addicted parents, and curriculum development and general enhancements to the current training models for resource families. All curricula must be approved by the Department and reflect its policies and values.

The Department is especially interested in receiving comments on viable means to ensure the cultural competence and responsiveness of the initiative to the unique needs of the Native Hawaiian community and other ethnic groups who are disproportionately represented among the Department's clients. We welcome suggestions as to how resource families can be more effectively involved in providing support to the children's birth families and enhance their effective participation in 'Ohana conferences and family group decision-making.

Respondents are also asked to identify current barriers to the efficient and timely licensing of potential resource families (fingerprinting, criminal records checks, scheduling of training sessions, *etc.*) and to propose solutions for eliminating or circumventing such barriers.

Other potential functions and deliverables of interest include certain activities associated with foster home periodic re-evaluations and hosting of an annual foster parent training conference and ongoing continuing education/training of resource families.

Written comments should be submitted to Mr. Joseph Woodard at City Center, 810 Richards Street, Suite 400, Honolulu, HI 96813 by 4:30 p.m. on March 13, 2006. Comments may also be faxed to Mr. Woodard's attention at (808) 586-4806 or submitted by e-mail to the following address: [jwoodard@dhs.hawaii.gov](mailto:jwoodard@dhs.hawaii.gov). The Department will facilitate a public meeting to discuss the comments received on Monday, March 20, 2006 at the City Center location.

Please note that participation in this RFI process is optional and is not required in order to respond to any subsequent procurement. Neither the Department of Human Services nor any responding party shall incur any obligation under this process.

Lillian B. Koller, Esq.  
Director